

standardized so words can travel and be understood on a more common basis. Go ahead. Examples.

[*Dr. Finnell made further remarks.*]

The President. Information saves lives, and it saves money. That's what we're here talking about, and we've got a strategy to encourage information—the spread of information technology throughout the entire health care industry to help control the costs and raise the quality of health care. That's what we're here to talk about.

And somebody who can testify—I think you can—

Jennifer Queen. I hope so.

The President. You will—is Jennifer Queen. She's here as a mom. Tell us about Courtney, your daughter.

[*Jennifer Queen, mother of a Vanderbilt University Medical Center patient, made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you for sharing that. That's a great—you know, a great story. I saw Courtney. You're right, she's strong. She's doing great.

Ms. Queen. Yes, she's our little beautiful angel.

The President. She is your beautiful angel.

Ms. Queen. We have two little angels, and they're doing real well.

The President. That's good. Listen, I hope that story helps you understand—listen, if you're having to tote around written records, not only is it cost ineffective, there's a chance there's going to be errors. And as the system evolves, it puts these records on the computers, on disks. They can move information at lightning speed. You not only save money; you improve the quality of care through the spread of good information. It lets these docs do their jobs. It eases the minds of the patients. They can take Courtney's records with her if she were to go down to Crawford, for example. [*Laughter*] And you can take the records with you.

And it's—we're changing medicine. Medicine's changing. That's what we're talking about. It's changing for the better. We're here because this little center of excellence is on the leading edge of change. And the

goal for our country is that, most everybody—medical records are digitized, and every health care system can talk to each other; every office can talk to each other to share information in a better way, to make sure America's health care system remains the best in the world.

That's what we want. We want only one thing. We want the best health care system in the world for our patients at the best possible price. It can be—it will be achieved. That's what I'm here to tell you. It's going to be achieved. One of the ways we do so is to properly use information technology. I want to thank our panelists for sharing your stories and your information. I want to thank you all for coming to listen. I hope you have found this as interesting as I have.

Let me conclude by telling you, we're lucky to live in the greatest country in the face of the Earth. God bless. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:43 p.m. in the Langford Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Harry R. Jacobson, vice-chancellor for health affairs, Neal R. Patel, assistant professor of pediatrics and anesthesia, James E. Shmerling, chief executive officer, Children's Hospital, and William W. Stead, associate vice-chancellor for health affairs and director, Informatics Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Karyn Frist, wife of Senator Bill Frist; Kim Wamp, wife of Representative Zach Wamp; and Mayor Bill Purcell of Nashville, TN.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark

May 28, 2004

President Bush. Welcome. Thanks for coming. It's always good to be with a friend. Friends are candid with each other. Friends are open, and friends are constructive. And that's the kind of conversation we've just had and will continue to have.

I told the Prime Minister that our Government and our coalition will transfer full sovereignty, complete and full sovereignty to an Iraqi government that will be picked by Mr. Brahimi of the United Nations. He said, "Do you mean full sovereignty?" I said, "I mean

full sovereignty.” I then told him that we’re working closely in the United Nations to get a new Security Council resolution, and we’re making progress on that resolution.

I spoke to Vladimir Putin this morning about the resolution, and we agreed to work together on behalf of the Iraqi people and the new government. I told him that we would come up with an arrangement that would enable us to help the Iraqi people secure their country so that the country can move toward elections. I told him I would continue to work with countries around the world to build support for the new Iraqi government so that the Iraqi people have a chance to live in a free and just society, just like we do.

I also want to thank the people of Denmark for their love of freedom, their support for human rights, and the commitment of troops to Iraq. The moms and dads of those troops need to know they’re performing brilliantly, Mr. Prime Minister. They’re good, strong soldiers who bring great credit to your country. I’m proud to have you here. Thanks for coming.

Prime Minister Rasmussen. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I’m happy to be back in the White House. I’m here as a friend and ally. And today I have confirmed that the Danish troops will stay in Iraq. We will stay and finish our job. Our common goal is to assist the Iraqi people in building a new, modern, and democratic society.

We have a lot of negative news from Iraq. What we need now are—is some positive news. And I welcome the efforts to achieve consensus in the U.N. Security Council on a new Security Council resolution which can pave the way for the building of a democratic society in Iraq.

We need a transfer of full sovereignty to an Iraqi government, an Iraqi government which will be provided with all the signs and principles of a sovereign government. From June 30, international military presence in Iraq will be provided at request from this new Iraqi government. Our troops will stay in Iraq as long as the Iraqi government decides.

Finally, we have discussed the tragic events of prisoner abuse in Iraqi prisons. I welcome the assurance that these cases will

be fully investigated and the people responsible will be held accountable. And I welcome that the necessary steps will be taken to make sure that nothing like this will happen in the future.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance of strength in transatlantic relations. In a few days’ time, we will commemorate the 60-year anniversary of the Allied invasion of Europe. We owe a great deal to the United States and Europe. Thousands of Americans lost their lives in Europe in the fight against Nazi tyranny, in the fight for freedom. And let this commemoration also be a reminder of our shared values and shared destiny.

Thank you.

President Bush. Good job, Mr. Prime Minister. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:01 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Statement on the National Economy

May 28, 2004

One year ago today, I signed into law the jobs and growth tax relief package to jumpstart the economic recovery and create jobs for American workers. With our economy growing at the fastest pace in nearly 20 years and more than 1.1 million more Americans working since last August, it is clear the tax relief is working.

Take-home pay for workers is up, and disposable income for families has increased to record levels. The incentives in our plan for small businesses are producing results as more manufacturers have been reporting increased activity and new orders than at any time in 20 years. I am encouraged to see that the unemployment rate has fallen in 47 of 50 States, because we want everyone who wants to work to be able to find a job.

There is more to do. We must continue to build on this success by expanding growth and increasing prosperity for all Americans. I look forward to working with Congress to pass my six-point plan for economic growth, including making the tax cuts permanent,